

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## 22 APRIL 2018

**Readings for Sunday, April 22:** Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18.

Jesus is the “cornerstone rejected by the builders which has become the cornerstone.” He is the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for us. Through his paschal mystery we have become children of God.

**Readings for Sunday, April 29:** Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8.

**St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Monday.**  
**Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Monday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 4:00 PM in the Chapel.**

### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
23 Apr.	MON. 9:00 AM	Angelo Gambino	Nicoletta Gambino & family
25 Apr.	WED.	No Mass - Priest's Workshop	
26 Apr.	THU.	No Mass - Priest's Workshop	
27 Apr.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Special Intention	
28 Apr.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Mary Tucker	The Family
29 Apr.	SUN. 9:00 AM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	



**ETERNAL REST** grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, especially MAVRIK LAXTON.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING** of the parish especially those in homes and hospitals.

**REMEMBER OUR TROOPS:** Pray that God will bless and protect our young men and women in the military.

**FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING** on Thursday, April 26 at 7:15 PM in the Rectory.

#### WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

April 29 - Ladies Springtime Tea at 1:00 PM in the social hall. Tickets \$10.00 - on sale after the weekend Masses and at the parish office. Must have ticket to attend. Ticket sales continue until April 22.

**THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY** is looking for donations to be used as door prizes for our Ladies Tea. Due to the almost non-existent donations from community businesses, we are asking for your help with items, gift cards, etc. Thank you for any help. Donations can be dropped at the church office.

#### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - April 28/29:

##### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Tony Vitacco  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Terry Donnelly, Cindy Nore, Frank Durante, Sherry Durante  
 Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly  
 Greeters - Patty Wade and Monica Bauer

##### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Jim Mich  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Rita Templin, George Siver, Chris Gerasimowicz  
 Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz  
 Greeters - Jack and Lori Carr

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

#### *Good Shepherd Sunday*

If we lived in Israel at the time of Jesus, we would instantly relate to what Jesus told us today in the Gospel. Sheep were the people's main source of meat, milk, and cheese. They provided wool for clothing and they were regularly used as sacrifice in their liturgy.

If I were to try to think of something in our culture today that would be similar to the relationship of a shepherd to his sheep, the best comparison I can come up with is a mother who needs to be home to care for several toddlers. Just as toddlers depend on their mother's care, and their mother is always busy, sheep depend on the care of their shepherd and the shepherd, who had dozens of sheep, is kept busy twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Today's Gospel makes reference to an activity that shepherds had to go through daily. When night came, a number of shepherds would come together with their sheep and put them in a pen. Then they would sleep while one shepherd would stay awake watching out for thieves or predatory animals. In the morning, each shepherd would call out for his sheep to follow him to pasture. The sheep knew the voice of their own shepherd and would follow only their own shepherd's voice when they were called. They would ignore all the other shepherds who were calling for their sheep. The Gospel reflects this when Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me."

Some people are offended to hear themselves compared to sheep. Perhaps that's because they don't realize they need God's constant care at all times and not just when they have problems.

We live in a society where everyone is trying to get our attention. You can't turn on the radio or television without someone trying to sell you something. Even to go for a drive, you have billboards trying to catch your eye. Companies spend significant amounts of money to buy just 30 seconds of advertising time in order to get their message across. Sometimes, like sheep, we just follow the latest message we hear, or sometimes we hear so many messages and, like sheep, we just follow the crowd. Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice." If we want to belong to Him, we do have to hear His voice, though in today's world, it takes a conscious effort to do so. We have to take time to shut out all kinds of other noises so we can listen to Him. If we don't make the effort, we can easily lose touch with the Shepherd. This is one reason (among many) to take time to pray daily and to come to church every Sunday. We need to keep in touch.

Jesus tells us something else about shepherds today; they know their sheep and the sheep know their shepherds. It's just the same way we know our pets at home. How do they know one another so well – because they spend a lot of time together. Sheep take a lot of care and the shepherd is with his or her sheep twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Jesus is with us all the time and knows us better than we know ourselves (all the hairs on our heads are numbered – do any of us know ourselves that well?). If we don't know Him very well, we need to spend more time with Him; and that is called prayer.

Whenever I think about shepherds, I think about friends of mine many years ago who climbed Mt. Sinai. They told me it is very rugged and steep. On the way down, they saw a shepherd and her sheep on a near-by hill. It was getting dark. She started playing her flute and headed in a direction away from where my friends were; the sheep fell in line following her. It was all the sheep trusting her and it showed how much they depended on her. They said it was a beautiful and touching scene.

Our Lord does not want to lose any one of us. His desire is for us to be with Him forever, in heaven, where there will be no more sadness and pain, where our second reading tells us, He will wipe every tear from our eyes. One of the ways He leads us is through the Eucharist we are celebrating. He is with us as we gather in His name. He speaks to us in the Sacred Scriptures. He feeds us with His own Body and Blood. Sheep may not be smart, but they are smart enough to know they need their shepherd and to recognize his voice.

The metaphor is obvious. Christ is our Good Shepherd. He wants us to trust and follow Him. Sometimes following Him can get a little frightening; we don't know where He's taking us or what He might ask of us. Sometimes when He takes us through the desert, as shepherds need to do at times when they want to bring their sheep to better grazing ground, we ask why He is doing this to us. That's why He is always telling us to have faith in Him. That's also why we need to pray – so we will have faith in Him.

May the Good Shepherd watch over all of us. May He protect your children and always keep them close to Him. We congratulate once more James Reitz and Nicole Griffin who were received into the Church at Easter. May the light

and zeal that they feel ignite each of us and our love for the Eucharist. May they and each of us continue to deepen our faith in Jesus as we all continue on our journey through life.

Have a great week!

Fr. Gregg Hickey

### Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR APRIL 15, 2018.....	\$4,226
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$4,136
Parish Giving -	\$90
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$774)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$210,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$190,065
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,525
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$19,935)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$475)

#### APRIL 16, 2017

Deposit.....	\$8,689
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$22,067)
Difference from previous year.....	\$2,132

#### **MASS ATTENDANCE for April 14/15:**

7:30 PM Mass - 204  
9:00 AM Mass - 129  
Total Attendance - 333  
Mass Attendance for April 15/16, 2017 - 480

#### **"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"**

**AMITY SELF STORAGE**  
610-385-1222

**"CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL!"** For further information, please call the parish office.

**MAGNIFICAT** - Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their MAY issue at the parish office.

**BASKET RAFFLE** - Chances for a "Spring Time Fun" Basket are on sale until May 13 after the weekend Masses and at the parish office. Chances are \$5.00 each. Basket includes a \$120 Gift Certificate for the Colebrookdale Railroad, \$100 in cash, \$50 in instant Lottery tickets and a spring/summer floral arrangement. Drawing will be held on Monday, May 14.



#### **PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET** based on the PA Pick 3 Evening Number.

Winning ticket number must be the exact number drawn for the PA Pick 3 Evening Number. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are sold on a monthly basis. The prize for the winning ticket is \$50.00 on weekdays and \$100.00 on Sundays and one specially-designated weekday. Tickets are available after the Masses on weekends and at the parish office on weekdays. **This is our major fund raiser for the parish. We encourage each family to purchase at least one ticket each month. Your support is greatly appreciated.**

#### **LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS**

April 9 - #839 - unsold  
April 10 - #390 - unsold  
April 11 - #164 - unsold  
April 12 - #603 - unsold  
April 13 - #561 - Joan Fern - \$50.00  
April 14 - #292 - unsold  
April 15 - #524 - unsold

**ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST** sponsored by the Pottstown-Stowe Lions Club on Sunday, April 29 from 8:00 AM till Noon at the West End Fire Company, Stowe. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice, milk and coffee. Cost: \$7.00 Adults; \$6.00 Seniors; \$5.00 Children 4-12 and children under 4 years old eat for free.

#### **GOLFERS AND NON-GOLFERS...have fun and protect life!**

The Valley Forge Chapter, Knights of Columbus is holding its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Pro-Life Golf Tournament on Friday, May 4 at Twin Ponds Golf Course, Gilbertsville. Event includes breakfast, lunch, banquet dinner, golf and individual/team skill prizes. Cost per golfer is \$100. Dinner only tickets available for \$35.00 per person. Contact Gary Huster (610-972-0356 or [thebighue@aol.com](mailto:thebighue@aol.com)) or Mark Nunan (610-754-7185 or [marknunan@dejazzd.com](mailto:marknunan@dejazzd.com)). All proceeds benefit local crisis pregnancy centers.

#### **TODAY IS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS.**

Please pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood.

**BEEF & BEER FUND RAISER** to support West End Fire Company Firefighters, Stowe on Saturday, May 19 at the West End Fire Company's Nicholas J. Lenhardt Hall from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Must be 21 years old or older to attend. \$25.00 admission includes food, beer, soda, iced tea, water, door prizes. 50/50 and Basket Raffle tickets will be sold.

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS** - The annual Archdiocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass will take place on Saturday, April 28 at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia at the 5:15 PM Vigil Mass with Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. presiding. This Mass is to pray for and with all married couples who are newlyweds, or who have been married 25 years or more, or 50 years or more. Friends and family are welcome and encouraged to attend. Registration required. To register visit [www.phillycatholiclife.org](http://www.phillycatholiclife.org) or call 215-587-0500.

**FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR** on May 4 - The seminarians of St. Charles invite you to join them from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Immaculate Conception Chapel. Come and adore our Lord, Christ Jesus! The seminarians will lead worshipers in traditional chant as well as contemporary praise and worship music, and we will pray the Liturgy of the Sacred Heart.

**ARCHDIOCESAN MAY PROCESSION** on Sunday, May 6 at 2:00 PM at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia. Come honor the Mother of Jesus and our Mother.

**CONCERTS AT THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA** - April 28 at 8:00 PM - The world-class ensemble **Chanticleer** returns for a thrilling evening of a cappella singing. For tickets, visit [www.CathedralPhilaConcerts.org](http://www.CathedralPhilaConcerts.org).

**MOTHERS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES RETREAT** on Tuesday, May 1 at Malvern Retreat House. Sr. Suzanne Mayer, IHM will direct the retreat for mothers and grandmothers who are raising children with disabilities and also those who have adult children with disabilities. Fr. Jim Olson will be the celebrant for Mass. There will be time to pray, reflect, and chat with other mothers. Register online at [www.opdarchphilly.org](http://www.opdarchphilly.org). For more information call Malvern Retreat House (610-644-0400) or Office for Persons with Disabilities (215-587-3530).

**EVENING OF REFLECTION** directed by Sr. Shelia Galligan, IHM on Thursday, May 3 at Malvern Retreat House. The theme is "Forgiveness, the Best Revenge." Register by calling 610-644-0400 or online at [www.malvernretreat.com](http://www.malvernretreat.com).

**METANOIA** is an active community of Catholic young adults in western Montgomery County who support Catholics in their 20s and 30s who are looking to deepen their faith and meet fellow Catholics in the area. Upcoming events: Tuesday, April 24 - Holy Hour at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish, North Wales at 7:30 PM; Tuesday, May 8 - Bible Study at St. Rose of Lima Parish, North Wales at 7:30 PM; Tuesday, May 15 - Theology on Tap at Appalachian Brewing Company, Collegeville - doors open at 7:00 PM, talk starts at 7:30 PM; Tuesday, May 22 - Holy Hour at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish, North Wales at 7:30 PM. For more information contact [metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com](mailto:metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com).

**FLAME OF LOVE EASTER RETREAT** on Saturday, May 5 at St. Anthony Padua Church, Ambler from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Bi-Lingual Event. Celebrant and Homilist is Fr. Bill McCarthy. Day includes continental breakfast(provided), Rosary and Praise, Flame of Love Presentation, Mass, Lunch (provided), Talk by Fr. Bill McCarthy and Benediction. RSVP to Rebecca Perez ([rperez@saintanthonypadua.org](mailto:rperez@saintanthonypadua.org) or call 215-646-4742, ext. 3009). For further information contact Flame of Love Office (610-622-4257 or [www.flameoflove.us](http://www.flameoflove.us)).

**SENSATIONAL SOUL CRUISERS LIVE IN CONCERT** on April 28 at Nelson Hall, Notre Dame de Lourdes School, Swarthmore from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Presented by Our Lady of Peace Parish. Tables can be reserved. Tickets are \$35 per person. Call OLP Rectory (610-328-9330) or Debbie Hanna (215-520-2097) for tickets.

**EXPLORE THE WINES AND SHRINES OF PORTUGAL** on April 28 at Holy Martyrs Catholic Church, Oreland from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Hosted by Diana von Glahn, The Faithful Traveler as seen on EWTN and CatholicTV. Enjoy Portuguese wines and delicious food, while watching clips from the upcoming production of "The Faithful Traveler in Portugal." Cost is \$50.00 per person. Call 215-884-8575 or email [holymartyrssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:holymartyrssecretary@gmail.com) for tickets or more information.

**2018 FEAST DAY MASS OF SAINT GIANNA BERETTA MOLLA** on Thursday, April 26 at Nativity of Our Lord Church, Warminster. Rosary at 6:30 PM; Mass at 7:00 PM. Rev. Joseph Watson, Nativity of Our Lord Parish's Pastor, will be the main celebrant. After Mass, venerate First-Class and Second-Class Relics followed by refreshments in church's downstairs auditorium. For additional information call 215-657-3101 or email [jcw@saintgianna.org](mailto:jcw@saintgianna.org).